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(54) Title: HEPATITIS B ESCAPE MUTANT SPECIFIC BINDING MOLECULES			
(57) Abstract Molecules which are capable of specifically binding to a hepatitis B escape mutant antigenic determinant include monoclonal antibodies secreted by the cell line SMH HBs 145/G/R/I (ECACC 92122312), SMH HBs 145/R/I (ECACC 93052626), SMH HBs 145/G/R/II (ECACC 93033109) or SMH HBs 145/R/II (ECACC 93033110) and other specific binding molecules cross-competitive with them. Antibodies secreted by the cell lines SMH HBs 145/G/R/I and SMH HBs 145/G/R/II bind variant (escape mutant) HBsAG and wild type HBsAG. Antibodies secreted by the cell lines SMH HBs 145/R/I and SMH HBs 145/R/II bind variant but not wild type.			